



# CROP-WEATHER REPORT

Released: 2:00 p.m., Monday  
March 27, 2006

## Month of March 2006

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Temperatures continue below normal.

Range and pasture conditions better than last year.

Calving and lambing in full swing.

Cooler than normal temperatures continued, but were warmer than last month and 11 points above the 5-year average. Temperatures ranged widely with high temperatures mostly in the 60's to low 70's, and lows below zero. Precipitation was mostly below normal with just a few areas mostly in the Southeast receiving above normal amounts. Snow pack was higher than average across much of southern and far western Wyoming, but below average in most of the north central and northeastern part of the state.

Topsoil moisture was rated adequate to surplus in 56 percent of the state, up 9 points from March 5<sup>th</sup>. Stock water supplies were rated adequate in 74 percent of the state, up 4 percent from 3 weeks ago. The average depth of snow was about 1.4 inches across the state. A few western counties reported more than 6 inches while most of the remaining counties had one inch or less.

### SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

TOPSOIL	This Week	Mar 5 2006	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	Percent			
Very Short	7	10	20	15
Short	37	43	33	40
Adeq	54	38	42	42
Surp	2	9	5	3

### CROP PROGRESS TABLE

ITEM	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Barley Pltd	25	-	37	22
Oats Pltd	0	-	6	3
Spring Wheat Pltd	4	-	3	2

**FIELD CROP REPORT:** The winter wheat crop condition improved in recent weeks, and on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 62 percent was rated good and none excellent. Wind damage to winter wheat was light on 61 percent of the acreage, 14 percent had moderate damage, and 4 percent had severe damage. Cold temperatures caused light freeze damage in February on 19 percent of the wheat crop with some moderate to severe freeze damage in isolated areas in the Southeast, but no additional damage was reported in March. Barley had been planted on 25 percent of the expected acreage, 12 points behind the same time last year but a little ahead of the 5-year average. Four percent of the spring wheat acres were planted, slightly ahead of last year.

### CROP CONDITION TABLE

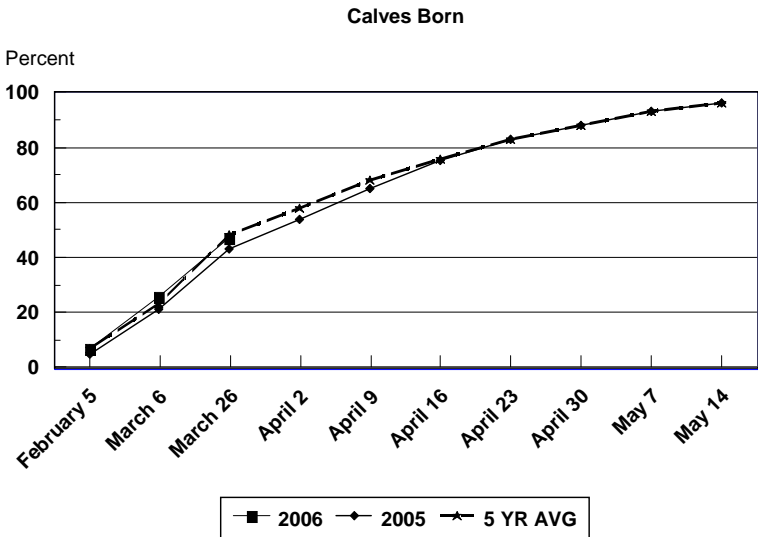
ITEM	V POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL
	Percent				
Winter Wht	1	3	34	62	0

### LIVESTOCK PROGRESS TABLE

	This Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Spring Calves Born	47	43	48
Farm Flock Ewes Lambed	52	50	53
Farm Flock Sheep Shorn	52	56	57

**LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT:** Range and pasture conditions continue to be better than the last few years with 34 percent rated good, compared with 13 percent good and 4 percent excellent last year. Grazing prospects were rated at 1 percent excellent, 39 percent good, 47 percent fair, and 13 percent poor. Last year at this time only 21 percent was rated good. Calving and lambing were near average pace with 47 percent of the calves and 52 percent of the lambs on the ground. Calf and lamb losses were mostly normal but cold temperatures coupled with blizzard conditions resulted in some losses in the Southeast. Rain and snow mix over the weekend was hard on new-born livestock. Fifty-two percent of the farm flock had been shorn, slightly behind the average.

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Temperatures during the four weeks ending Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, continued colder than normal in almost all stations. Averages ranged from 0.4 degrees above normal in Riverton to 4.4 degrees below normal in Wheatland. The high temperature was 73 in Torrington and the low was minus 11 in Jackson, Big Piney, and Laramie. Precipitation was below normal except in some eastern areas. The most precipitation was reported in Chugwater with 1.37 inches, Redbird with 1.31 inches, and Dillinger with 1.24 inches.



TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION					
	:	:	:	:	:	:	CUMULATIVE	1/
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	DEP.	AMT.	DEP.	1/05	NORM
	:	:	:	FROM	PAST	FROM	TO	THRU
STATION	MAX	MIN	NORM	MONTH	NORM	DATE	MONTH	FROM
<b>SNAKE DRAINAGE</b>								
Jackson	52	-11	-2.3	0.75	-0.31	3.59	3.47	0.12
Afton	53	-9	-3.8	0.68	-0.64	3.37	3.86	-0.49
<b>GREEN &amp; BEAR DRAINAGE</b>								
Uinta County AP	46	7	-2.8	0.55	-0.21	1.38	2.06	-0.68
Big Piney AP	46	-11	-2.4	0.21	-0.21	1.17	1.03	0.14
Rock Springs AP	55	5	-1.2	0.25	-0.39	0.80	1.74	-0.94
<b>BIG HORN DRAINAGE</b>								
Cody	63	4	-1.1	0.37	-0.08	0.58	1.15	-0.57
Deaver	70	5	-2.3	0.07	-0.12	0.09	0.45	-0.36
Greybull AP	69	6	-1.1	0.09	-0.19	0.11	1.00	-0.89
Powell Field St	68	4	-1.7	0.04	-0.20	0.10	0.53	-0.43
Worland FAA AP	67	8	-0.9	0.25	-0.12	0.35	0.84	-0.49
<b>POWDER, LITTLE MO. &amp; TONGUE DRAINAGE</b>								
Kaycee	66	3	-1.4	0.61	-0.05	1.36	1.45	-0.09
Sheridan WSO AP	68	7	-1.8	0.80	-0.04	1.26	2.11	-0.85
<b>BELLE FOURCHE DRAINAGE</b>								
Dillinger	66	3	-0.7	1.24	0.51	1.77	1.63	0.14
Sundance	61	7	-0.2	0.60	-0.30	1.62	2.21	-0.59
<b>CHEYENNE &amp; NIOBRARA DRAINAGE</b>								
Newcastle	65	10	-0.6	0.91	0.21	1.62	1.71	-0.09
Redbird	68	3	-2.4	1.31	0.65	1.74	1.40	0.34
<b>LOWER PLATTE DRAINAGE</b>								
Casper AP	63	-2	-0.3	0.54	-0.24	2.04	1.95	0.09
Cheyenne AP	67	1	-1.9	1.14	0.29	1.75	1.79	-0.04
Chugwater	68	-3	-4.1	1.37	0.49	2.72	2.03	0.69
Douglas AP	64	-3	-0.8	0.33	-0.41	1.22	1.58	-0.36
Torrington AP	73	7	-1.7	0.81	0.20	1.14	1.32	-0.18
Wheatland 4 N	69	-5	-4.4	1.21	0.67	1.71	1.08	0.63
<b>WIND RIVER DRAINAGE</b>								
Lander AP	58	4	-0.9	0.80	-0.19	1.77	2.01	-0.24
Riverton AP	60	7	0.4	0.20	-0.21	0.76	0.89	-0.13
<b>UPPER PLATTE DRAINAGE</b>								
Laramie AP	61	-11	-0.6	0.26	-0.42	0.33	1.55	-1.22
Rawlins AP	58	-6	-1.4	0.55	-0.02	0.59	1.60	-1.01
Saratoga	59	-6	-2.5	1.13	0.49	1.17	1.53	-0.36

AP - AIRPORT. T - TRACE. ( ) - ESTIMATES.

1/LATE REPORTS CAN CHANGE PREVIOUS WEEK'S CUMULATIVE TOTALS.